



CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT
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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

Week of Aug 22, 2005

CAMBODIA

Dengue Prevention Results in Fewer Cases This Year in Cambodia

Cambodia has fewer dengue cases in children this year [2005] due to the ongoing dengue prevention efforts by the government. Statistics from the Ministry of Health show that, so far this year [2005], about 4300 children nationwide have contracted dengue fever, and 68 of them have died of dengue hemorrhagic fever. The death rate among children sickened by dengue is about half the fatality rate during the same period last year [2004]. Health officials believe the lower figures are a testament to ongoing dengue prevention campaigns, including using insecticides to kill mosquitoes and larvae, and educating parents to protect their children from the disease-carrying insects. But health officials say the disease remains a significant concern. They hope that, by the end of the year [2005], the number of dengue cases will continue to drop.

Source:

· People's Daily Online, China, Aug 23, 2005, http://english.people.com.cn/200508/23/eng20050823_204169.html
· Promed Mail, Aug 24, 2005,
http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:10729074400698108444::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30171

CHINA

Streptococcus suis Still a Threat in South China

Four people have been infected with *Streptococcus suis* (a pig-borne infection) in South China and one person has died. This comes only one day after an epidemic in another part of the country was declared under control. The infections were reported in four different areas in Guangdong province. The disease is usually passed on through contact with raw pork or sick swine. Two of the cases are still hospitalized. At least 38 people have died in the epidemic, which was first detected in June 2005, mostly in farmers who butchered or handled infected pigs. More than 200 people were affected.

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Yangjiang, along with Chao'an County and the cities of Nanxiong and Shenzhen, which borders Hong Kong, were the latest areas having human infections. Medical teams have been sent to investigate and help locals take protective measures.

Source:

- Washington Post, Aug 22, 2005, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/08/22/AR2005082200435.html>
- Promed Mail, Aug 22, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:3349226018524042368::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30145
- The Standard - Hong Kong, Aug 22, 2005, <http://www.thestandard.com.hk/stdn/std/Metro/GH22Ak01.html>

HONG KONG

Hong Kong Confirms Streptococcus suis Infection in 79-Year-Old Woman

According to Hong Kong's Center for Health Protection, a Streptococcus suis infection report involving a 79-year-old woman was confirmed on 22 August 2005, which brings the year's total to 10. The Kowloon City resident developed fever, right knee pain, redness and swelling on 16 August 2005 and was admitted to Queen Elizabeth Hospital 6 days later. She has no recent travel history and is now in critical condition. Hong Kong health officials advise local residents to observe personal and environmental hygiene and to avoid contact with pigs. If contact with pigs or raw pork is necessary, residents should use protective gloves, wash hands after handling and clean and cover all wounds.

Source:

- XinhuaNet.com, Aug 22, 2005, http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-08/22/content_3389798.htm

INDIA

Uttar Pradesh Government Declares Japanese Encephalitis Epidemic

The Uttar Pradesh government has declared an epidemic in most of Uttar Pradesh for Japanese Encephalitis (JE). As of 21 August 2005, there have been 167 deaths with 500 cases in total (250 are hospitalized). The majority affected are 1-13 years of age. The specific areas affected are Gorakhpur, Devaria, Basti, Maharajganj and adjoining areas of Bihar. Hospitals around the state have been asked to take measures such as anti-larval treatment, indoor spray and fogging, and isolated wards have been set up for treatment of encephalitis patients. The disease has recurred annually in eastern regions of the state since about 1980. Uttar Pradesh needs 50 million [doses of vaccine] every year, according to state health officials.

Source:

- New Indpress, Aug 25, 2005, <http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IEH20050825073020&Page=H&Title=Top+Stories&Topic=0>
- BBC News, UK, Aug 24, 2005, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/4179760.stm
- Newkerala.com, Aug 22, 2005, <http://www.newkerala.com/news.php?action=fullnews&id=15944>
- Promed Mail, Aug 25, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:14177468075169418521::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30188

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INDONESIA

Poliomyelitis Cases Reach 225 in Indonesia

As of 24 August, five new cases were reported in Indonesia, bringing the total number of cases to 225. The affected provinces are West Java, Central Java, Banten, Lampung and Jakarta. The onset of the most recent wild polio virus cases were on 29 July 2005 in West Jakarta city and Brebes district, Central Jakarta. Preparations are underway for the first Nationwide Immunization Day (NID) to be held on 30 August, targeting 24.4 million children less than 5 years old throughout the country. A second NID is scheduled to take place on 27 September 2005.

Source:

· Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response, WHO, Aug 25, 2005, http://www.who.int/csr/don/2005_08_25a/en/index.html

Jakarta, Indonesia, Confirm Avian Influenza Deaths

Tests have confirmed that three people in Indonesia have died from avian influenza. The victims are a man and his two daughters, the country's first human fatalities from the disease. They had no known contact with poultry and have raised fears of human-to-human transmission. The WHO does not yet agree about the transmission stressing that more investigation is needed. More than 300 people who had been in close contact with the family are under medical surveillance. Since January of 2004, over 50 people have died of avian influenza in Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand.

Source:

· BBC News, Jul 20, 2005, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/4698863.stm>

Dengue Continues to be a Problem in Indonesia

Four people in Jambi city have died of dengue fever since May 2005. All of the victims were children below age 10. At least a dozen people are being admitted to hospitals since May for dengue fever. Almost a month after the start of the dengue epidemic in Jakarta, hospitals are still seeing more patients coming in with the disease but there have been no new reports of fatalities. The Jakarta health agency reports that from 1 January to 18 August 2005, there have been 12 036 dengue patients in Jakarta, with 60 deaths. Indonesia has recorded 605 dengue fever deaths nationwide this year but has avoided any extraordinary outbreak. A total of 43 509 infections were reported, increasing the incidence rate to 19.6 per 100 000 residents from 18.8 for the same period last year.

Source:

· The Jakarta Post, Aug 23, 2005, <http://www.thejakartapost.com/detailcity.asp?fileid=20050823.G06&irec=5>

· Promed Mail, Aug 24, 2005,

http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:10729074400698108444::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30171

· The Jakarta Post, Aug 22, 2005, <http://www.thejakartapost.com/detailnational.asp?fileid=20050822.D11&irec=10>

· Today Online, Indonesia, Aug 22, 2005, <http://www.todayonline.com/articles/68098.asp>

· Promed Mail, Aug 24, 2005,

http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:10729074400698108444::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30171

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NEPAL

Undiagnosed Disease Kills 5 People in Eastern Nepal

At least 5 people have died of an undiagnosed disease in eastern Nepal. The unknown disease has killed 3 patients in Beltar village and 2 in Siddipur village, Udyapur district, some 300 km east of Kathmandu. The symptoms included high fever, headache as well as bleeding from the nose and vomiting blood. Patients infected with the disease have been taken to a hospital in Dharan city for treatment. A three-member medical team has been sent to the disease-affected area. The same disease apparently killed two people in Beltar and Sundarpur villages two weeks ago. Currently, health experts believe the most likely disease, given the symptoms presented above, would be one of the old world hantaviruses.

Source:

· Xinhua Net, Aug 23, 2005, http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-08/23/content_3394057.htm
· Promed Mail, Aug 23, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:13005663462699565211::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30167

Japanese Encephalitis Outbreak in Nepal

An outbreak of encephalitis in southwest Nepal has killed at least 20 people in the past week with more than 60 new cases reported by the weekend. The government has rushed medicine and special teams to southwest Nepal to deal with the outbreak. The virus is normally carried by mosquitoes, which flourish as annual monsoon rains come through the area in August-September. The outbreak in the Terai districts of Western Nepal has killed several people in the past two days, bringing the death toll to 41 this summer. Currently 91 people are undergoing treatment at two hospitals.

Source:

· Kantipur Online, Aug 21, 2005, <http://www.kantipuronline.com/kolnews.php?&nid=49476>
· Radio Australia, Aug 21, 2005, <http://www.abc.net.au/ra/news/stories/s1442632.htm>
· Promed Mail, Aug 22, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:3349226018524042368::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30147

NEW ZEALAND

Health Officials Search for Source of Legionnaire's Disease in Christchurch, New Zealand

Christchurch public health officials are trying to find the source of the city's legionnaire's disease outbreak. The task is difficult since there is no obvious source. Investigators are looking for something that may be fairly subtle. An infected cooling tower remains the prime suspect for the source of the disease. A large number of towers have already been tested and samples sent to Environmental Science and Research for analysis. Results will be available in one week. Legionnaires' cases have been concentrated in the west of the city, with victims from Sockburn, Hornby, Riccarton, and Fendalton, but cases have also been reported in St Albans, Lyttelton, and Rangiora. A 20th person

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who contracted the disease lives on the West Coast but had been visiting Christchurch. No new cases were reported over the weekend.

Source:

· Stuff.co.nz, Aug 22, 2005, <http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/0,2106,3384656a7144,00.html>
· Promed Mail, Aug 22, 2005,
http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:3349226018524042368::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30143

PHILIPPINES

Dengue Cases Continue to Rise in the Philippines

Dengue cases continue to rise in the Philippines, with 78 cases reported since January 2005. Deaths have been reported from the towns of San Remigio, Tobias Fornier and Culasi, each town having had one death each. Residents are being encouraged to ensure that the breeding places of *Aedes aegypti*, the dengue carrier mosquito, are eliminated. Close observation must be taken also, especially when symptoms, like fever, rashes and bleeding or hemorrhage, appear. Medical help should be sought immediately.

Source:

· Philippine Information Agency, Aug 22, 2005, <http://www.pia.gov.ph/news.asp?fi=p050822.htm&no=7>
· Promed Mail, Aug 24, 2005,
http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:10729074400698108444::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30171

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